(b) if so, what were its detailed recommendations and what action Government propose to take on the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference have adopted resolutions urging the Government to provide concessions/facilities to small and medium newspapers as given in the Statement. (*See* below) Government is already alive to the problems of small and medium newspapers. An Expert Committee has been constituted to look into their problems. In fact, number of concession/facilities are already available to small and meduim newspapers. Government have also noted the contents of the resolutions.

Statement

(1) NEWSPRINT PRICE

The sale price of newsprint (both indigenous and imported) allocated through Registrar of Newspapers for India should be reduced by a minimum of 50 per cent.

(2) ADVERTISEMENTS

All Central and State Government agencies, union territories, including Andaman and Nicobar islands, State Information and Publicity departments and central/state public sector undertakings should release their advertisements to the extent of at least 50 per cent of the total allocation to small newspapers and 25 per cent to medium newspapers.

(3) 10 MT NEWSPRINT

The requirements of newsprint to the small and medium newspapers upto 10 MT should be met by imported or indigenous newsprint at the option and choice of the concerned indenting newspaper.

(4) POSTAL RATE

The Postal charges for small and medium newspapers should be brought down to 5 paise per 100 gram as was the position earlier.

(5) PHONE

One telephone connection to small and medium newspapers should be allowed rent free.

(6) TELEPRINTER

50 per cent subsidy on rental of teleprinters be allowed to small and medium newspapers using teleprinters.

(7) TRAINING

Government should provide financial assistance to small and medium newspaper organisations for their training programmes.

(8) RAIL TRAVEL

50 per cent concession on travel by rail in second class and 25 per cent on travel in first class should be provided to editors of all regular small and medium newspapers.

(9) LAND AND HOUSE

Central and state governments should provide government accommodation in centrally located areas at specially low rate to Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers for its office and visiting member editors in New Delhi and other state capitals pending allotment of land in a central area at nominal rate for IFSMN's own building.

(10) IFSMN ON OFFICIAL COMMITTEES

Centre and State Governments should take representatives of IFSMN on its various committees as IFSMN alone can speak for small and medium newspapers in the country.

(11) Small papers should be treated as an industry and loans be provided to them.

(12) Newspapers, periodicals should be treated as first class mail by P&T and not as second class mail as at present to cut down time loss.

Curbing entry of LTTE men in India

269. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is free entry of LTTE men in the Tamil Nadu

coastal area and there is large-scale smuggling of weapons by them in the coastal limit:

(b) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has failed to take any action against LTTE men involved in crimes and training the groups in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to curb entry of LTTE men into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from the Government of Tamil Nadu and a Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement

270. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Argeement that was signed during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Prime Ministership for the safety and security of the Tamils living in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the withdrawal of the Indian troops from Sri Lanka worsened the situation and the atmosphere of annihilation of Tamils is there; and

(c) if so, what steps the Government of India are taking to safeguard the interest of the Tamils living in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government believe that the de-induction of the IPKF is not responsible for the present situation.

(c) With the de-induction of the IPKF the direct responsibility for the safety and security of the Tamils living in Sri Lanka is with the Sri Lanka Government. Government have repeatedly stressed to the Sri Lanka Government to implement the devolution package enshrined in the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and have called on Tamil groups to give up violence and join the democratic mainstream.

Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu

271. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a flood of refugees coming into Tamil Nadu and their number is growing day by day because of the war between Sri Lanka Government and LTTE; whether more and more refugees would continue coming to Tamil Nadu unless the peaceful conditions prevail there; and

(b) what steps the Government of India propose to take to resettle the refugees in Sri Lanka itself?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have proposed to the Sri Lanka Government to make efforts to set up refugee camps in Sri Lanka itself under supervision of international agencies.

Action plan for Punjab

272. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new action plan for Punjab has been announced by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have started implementing the said plan; and